October, 1921.

L'UMILE PIANTA

Officials of the Association.

Hon. Secretary and Treasurer—

Miss L. Gray, 3, St. David's Avenue, Bexhill, Sussex.

Hon. Assistant Secretary—

Miss F. W. Young, 102, Cranbrook Road, Ilford, Essex.

Hon. Editor—

Miss J. R. Smith, 9, Darnaway Street, Edinburgh.

Students' Executive Committee Members—

Miss G. M. Bernau, 13, Bryanston Street, W.1.

Miss V. C. Curry, St. Hilda's at Hillside, Merry Hill, Bushey.

Mrs. Esslemont, 226, Gloucester Terrace, W.2.

Mrs. Picton Hughes-Jones, Pond Hill Cottage, Cheam, Surrey.

Miss M. W. Kitching, 18, Hastings Road, Ealing, W.13.

Miss M. Lambert, 3, Queen's Gardens, Hyde Park, W.2.

Miss R. A. Pennethorne, 26, Victoria Street, S.W.1.

Miss K. Osborn, 52, Creffield Road, Ealing, W.5

CHANGES OF ADDRESS.

1910. Chaning Pearce, L. (Mrs. R. G. Wright), The Pinnacle, Gulmary, Kashmir.

1918. Gillespie, H. B., 12, Dalhousie Terrace, Edinburgh (sole.)

1913. Lowe, R., c/o Mrs. Morris, Horsley Hall, Eccleshall, Staffs. (post.)

1915. Purves, G. M., 196, Cromwell Road, London, S.W.5. (rooms.)

1912. Curry, V.C., St. Hilda's at Hillside, Merry Hill, Bushey.

1920. Fraser, M. H., c/o Mrs. E. L. Giles, Swinghoe, Croft Avenue, Dorking, Surrey.

1908. Henderson, W. S. (Mrs. F. G. Hill), 36, Maplewell Road, Woodhouse Eaves, Loughborough.

1914. Bowser, P. N., c/o Mrs. Chapman, Northacre, Banstead, Surrey (post). 45, Ferndale Road, Banstead (rooms).

BIRTHS.

Whiskin.—On January 13th, 1921, at 1235 Rae Street, Regina, Sask., Canada, to Mr. & Mrs. Frank Whiskin (née Gibbs), a son—John William.

Wright.—On October 17th, 1920, to Mr. & Mrs. R. G. Wright (née Chaning-Pearce) a son—John Michael.

McIntosh.—At Edinburgh, on the 31st August, to Mr. and Mrs. T. P. McIntosh (née Margarita Taylor), a daughter.

NOTICES.

The next number of L'Umile Pianta will come out on January 15th, 1922. As it is the Address Number, the Editor hopes that all Students will do their best to make the list as perfect as possible. Please send in your name, year of leaving College, Home address, Post Address (if any) *before November 30th*, to J. R. Smith, 9, Darnaway Street, Edinburgh.

If any Student could also send the addresses of any of the following, the Editor would be most grateful:—

M. Culverhouse 1893, M. W. Bingham 1894, E. Pearson (Mrs. McDonnell) 1894; A. J. Ambler, S. M. G. Beveridge, M. Disbrey, E. G. Dixon (Mrs. Northcote), 1895; E. M. Hartley (Mrs. E. C. Whitworth), 1897; M. Ambler (Mrs. Douglas Meares); R. Graves (Mrs. Marshall), K. I. Ross, 1898; D. Nesbitt, M. Ryan (Mrs. Percy Tyler) 1899; M. M. Kerr, A. Shirrefs-Gordon (Mrs. Rudmose-Brown) 1900; M. Beveridge, A. M. Cowdrey (Mrs. Owen) 1901; L. Lees, 1902; E. M. Brookes, 1903; G. Mahony (Mrs. J. Walton) 1905; Glascott, M. K., M. L. James (Mrs. Harry Williamson), M. O. Paterson 1908; R. M. Wearing 1909; D. Yeo (Mrs. H. R. Cummings), 1910; G. H. Aspinall, G. Paterson, M. H. Witherow, 1911; D. Edmonds, M. Sharman, 1912; M. E. Britten, M. Witherow, 1914; N. Balch, V. Partridge 1916; M. Adrain 1917; H. J. Hart, M. C. Lewis, 1918.

AMBLESIDE OLD STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION.

The Annual Meeting was held at Kew Gardens on Saturday, June 25th. The day was one of the hottest of the year and we all enjoyed a leisurely hour before tea under the trees in the Gardens.

A good tea was awaiting us at Carlton House and after that we adjourned for the business part of the proceedings.

Miss Olive Lowe was unanimously elected into the Chair, a telegram regretting inability to be present was received from Miss Gray and also a letter from Mrs. Hughes-Jones, Chairman of the S.E.C.

After these had been read discussion on the points in Mrs. Hughes-Jones' letter was opened by Miss Macfarlane.

It was decided that as no Agenda of the meeting had been sent out to individual members it could not constitute a formal business meeting, but those present unanimously agreed to send out Notices for a business meeting to every Old Student for Sept. 24th, and Misses Bernau and Flewker kindly consented to be responsible for the sending of the P.C's. The following suggestions for discussion at that meeting were proposed and seconded by members present and unanimously carried:

1. That each 'Year should have the right to elect one member from that Year, as representative on the S.E.C.
2. That an Annual Business Meeting should be held on or near London; in addition to and distinct from any Social Gathering.
3. That Rules of A.O.S.A. were to be read and be subject to revision at every Annual Business Meeting.
4. That the S.E.C. should meet four times a year on definite dates to be published in the preceding Pianta and an account of all such meetings to be published in the next Pianta.

The members present all expressed their desire to make the Association more helpful to all its members and hoped for a still larger and even more enthusiastic meeting in September.

A telegram was sent to Miss Mason, assuring her of our love and goodwill.

The meeting broke up after a vote of thanks had been passed to the Chairman. Those present were:—In the Chair, O. M. Lowe, Mrs. Gould, Mrs. Vaughan, Mrs. Reid, The Misses M. B.

Goode, McSheehy, W. Kitching, Pennethorne, Other, Gladding Sharman, G. Bell, Curry, Flewker, Bernau, Somerville, Gillies, McLeod, Witherow, Macfarlane, Armitage, Chubb, D. Stephens, R. Williams, Roger, Young and Wiseman.

Those present felt deep gratitude for the trouble Miss R. Williams had taken in arranging tea in a delightful cool room.

TELEGRAM.

Students' Meeting, Carlton House, Kew Gardens, S.7. Best wish for a successful meeting. Am with you in spirit.

GRAY.

June 24th, 1921.

To the Chairman, Annual Meeting of the Ambleside O.S. Association.

I very much regret that as Chairman of the S.E.C. I am unable to be present at the gathering on June 25th, owing to an important engagement at home.

You have, no doubt, all read Miss Macfarlane's letter in the June number of the Magazine, and had I been able to be present at the meeting on Saturday, I would have liked to put forward some suggestions in reply to the points she raised.

While agreeing with a good many of her statements, I would like to say, that while destructive criticism is very easy, it would be far more helpful to the Association as a body if some *constructive* ideas were put forward. Without dealing with each point raised in detail, I think I shall be voicing the feelings of the majority of Members, when I say that as an Association we need reconstruction on really organised business lines, in view of the fact that the O.S.A. has now grown so large that the original methods of conducting the business of the Association do not meet the present situation.

Miss Macfarlane complains that the Association is "lifeless, lethargic and helpless." To the first and last of these indictments I cannot agree, but to the second, I think we must, as a body, plead guilty. I venture, however, to say that the *cause* for this lethargy is to be found—not in any Executive Committee—but in each individual student. Miss Macfarlane speaks later about consulting all the Members on the question of Conferences by a post-card vote! Does she realize that it has frequently happened, that when *all* the members have been consulted in this way on important questions, a very small percentage has taken the trouble to send any reply!

This is just an instance of that lethargy which I am sure we all deplore, and which I do *not* put forward as an argument against consulting all the Members on really important questions but to show how impossible it would be to carry on if all the members

had to be consulted on matters of far less importance, which are generally, or by common consent, left to an Executive Committee, elected by the general body and existing only for that purpose. With regard to the question of a biennial or triennial Conference the decision was really made in response to wishes expressed by Miss Mason who felt that an Ambleside Conference every other year, was becoming somewhat of a strain and a burden in these difficult times.

At the same time, I would like to suggest that if it would meet the wishes of the majority of members we should hold a biennial Conference alternately in or near London and at Ambleside—that is to say, if the Conference of 1922 be held at Ambleside it should be held in 1924 somewhere in or near London.

The Executive, of course, have no power to re-elect themselves, as is suggested, and the present members are simply carrying on until the next Conference, the holding of which has been—it seems to me very reasonably—deferred, on account of its proper date following too closely on the Whitby Gathering. Anyone who understands the work and expense involved in arranging a Conference, will understand the wisdom of this.

In conclusion I would like to suggest for consideration the following points:—

1. That an Annual General Business Meeting should be held regularly, quite apart from any Social Gathering.
2. That the Rules of the Association should be revised and brought up-to-date.
3. That there should be at least *four* meetings annually of the Executive Committee, and that they should be held on definite dates to be fixed so that the proceedings could be reported in each subsequent issue of the Magazine. and that notice of the date should be published in the preceding PIANTA.

Yours truly,

ELEANOR HUGHES-JONES.

Madam Chairman and Fellow Students,

In 1908, Miss Parish writing in the name of the first S.E.C. to Ambleside declared that, "We have always welcomed suggestions, criticisms, and questions from those we represent." That statement, I venture to believe, still holds good to-day, and so I hope that you will take what I say in good part and believe that it is in no unkind or resentful or personal spirit that I speak. I think one is apt to forget *why* one does certain things and just does them mechanically and so we get into a groove. You remember that Miss Mason herself realises this and warns us against getting into a rut. That is perhaps what is meant by vain repetition. Sometimes it is very difficult to realise that one *is* in a rut. It is such a nice, broad comfortable rut with high sides that prevent one getting out easily, so it is less difficult for some one out-

side to see the rut and warn people of the danger of it. As you know I have been very much of an onlooker in all Association affairs for the last four years or more but I assure you that I have been an extremely interested onlooker and it has seemed to me that our S.E.C. (and through it perhaps the whole Association) has been getting deeper and deeper into a rut.

First of all why does the S.E.C. exist?

Let me quote another passage from that most instructive letter already referred to. Miss Parish says "The main *raison d'etre* of the S.E.C. is to enable *every* student (please note the every!) to keep in close touch with the management of the Association through some one whom she knows personally." And again (this is Miss Pennethorne, then Editor of the PLANT), students have felt "the need of a Central Committee to deal with Association matters; to voice and . . . carry through the desires or suggestions of Students scattered all over the world . . . The most important thing we decided was that we must . . . get into touch with ALL the students . . . We shall all gain immensely by being so much more closely linked together"!!

In those First Committees every member represented a certain number of years and kept in touch through the head of each budget or through the S.M. of each year. I am afraid that as there have been so few conferences lately it is scarcely possible for every student to know her representative personally, still I question if every year is represented on the present committees as is at least possible. I am afraid too, that we have fallen back into the fault of which Miss Pennethorne accused the Old Students Meetings before the days of the S.E.C. and which the S.E.C. was to cure! Allow me again to quote: "Our editor and Secretary both now living out of town the students meetings continue in rather a desultory manner. It is very amusing to go to them and meet one's friends *but* they might be made so much more useful. Very little helpful business is done at them: they are only meetings of units and do not have the far reaching influence over *all* students that they might have."

There is another matter also to which I want to refer. According to Rule VII, the S.E.C. "is to hold itself responsible for the *biennial* students' Conference." Please note that biennial and compare it to the casual remark in the report of the last S.E.C.: "The question of electing a new committee also came up, and it was decided that now that Ambleside conferences are to be *triennial* instead of biennial, the elections should be the same," etc. Madam Chairman *when* was it decided that the Conferences are to be *triennial* and by whom?

Rule VIII stated that "when fundamental changes are suggested the *whole* Association be consulted."

Madam Chairman: I claim that the alteration of the Conference from biennial to triennial is a fundamental change and that such a change cannot be made without consulting *all* the members

of the Association and that in trying to make this change without doing so the S.E.C. have exceeded their powers.

I am well aware that the conference was postponed during the war but that created no precedent as the circumstances were exceptional. I hold that the S.E.C. was guilty of an unconstitutional act when it postponed the Conference that should have been held this year without consulting its electors.

I hold that a biennial Conference is vital to the cohesion, unity, and esprit de corps of the Association. We lose that benefit to which Miss Pennethorne refers because we are not so closely linked together as we might be. We lack a common memory of excursions and discussions shared at conferences and a feeling of being able to depend on one another. Can anyone who reads our poor emaciated "PLANT" or the present students meagre letter doubt this? To what is this lack of life due but to the lack of personal interest? The present students do not realise that they are a part of a great and growing body. We Old Students forget it and get into our own selfish grooves. After all we need every scrap of inspiration we can get, and if it is impossible to meet always at Ambleside, let us meet elsewhere sometimes and get representatives from the present students to meet with us and share their new ideas with us and let us tell them our experiences and help them as they will surely help us.

Now I think I have done with criticism and would like to make some suggestions.

First of all as this meeting is not even called a business meeting and as no Agenda have been sent out it is useless to propose a resolution as in this case no resolution would be valid. But would it not be a good plan for the S.E.C. to meet before September 1st and call a General Business Meeting for October or November, and draw up an Agenda to be published in the September "PLANT" and ask in that "PLANT" for suggestions and criticisms.

I suggest that the rules be published before the next conference exactly as they appear in the "PLANT" for July 1909 (which I believe to be the last time they were revised), and that they then be revised and republished in the Conference "PLANT" and that this be done after every Conference.

I suggest that Rule I be so altered as to prevent *any* member of the S.E.C. being re-elected *more* than once, so that as many students as possible would take in it turn to be on the S.E.C. I think that all students within easy reach of London should consider it a duty to the Alma Mater, to Our beloved founder and to each other to be willing to stand for election, and consider it a great honour to be elected. I believe that the Association would be more alive and that Students would be keener and more interested if they had this definite work to do for the Association. I think that students might be re-elected after a lapse of 2 or 4 years.

I suggest that the names and addresses of members of the

S.E.C. *shewing which years they represent* be printed on the cover of every number of the "PLANT." I suggest that during the year that there is no Conference the Annual General Business Meeting be held in a suitable place in London as well as a pleasure excursion such as this. And lastly I suggest that every member of the S.E.C. should carefully study the Rules and constitution of the S.E.C. and act upon them, and that every student asked to preside or speak at a meeting study procedure and Chairmanship beforehand.

I should like now to read the Rules as they were in 1909 as I do not think they have been altered since.

S.E.C. RULES AS PUBLISHED IN "L'UMILE PIANTA," JULY, 1909.

I. "The Executive Committee of the O.S.A. to consist of seven members resident in London, Hon. Secretary and Editor, all to be elected by the Association. The S.E.C. and Officers to be elected every two years, retiring members to be eligible for re-election.

"(*a*) The Committee to have power to add to its members for special business.

"(*b*) The Committee to elect a new member should any vacancy occur between the elections. The Hon. Officers must always be elected by the Association.

(*c*) "The Committee to elect a chairman from their number, and should the chairman be absent from any meeting a deputy to be appointed from the members present.

II. "Each member of the S.E.C. to undertake to represent a certain number of "years," so that all students shall be represented.

"III. Reports of all committee meetings to be published in L'UMILE PIANTA.

"IV. A minute book is to be kept by the secretary or her deputy, and the minutes of the last meeting to be read and confirmed.

"V. All committee members shall receive an agenda before a meeting and Branch Secretaries and all members of the Association are entitled to receive the same on written application to the Secretary before each meeting, enclosing 1½ stamps.

"VI. The S.E.C. to meet not less than twice a year.

"VII. The S.E.C. to hold itself responsible for the biennial Students' Conference.

"VIII. At all meetings of the S.E.C. three to form a quorum, except when fundamental changes are suggested, in which case the whole Association to be consulted."

STUDENTS' MEETING.

A Meeting of the Ambleside Old Students Association was held at the Leisure Club, 16, Gordon Square, on Saturday, June 4th. Miss Wiseman was in the Chair; but owing to another important engagement she was not able to stay until the end and her place was kindly taken by Miss Dorothy Stephens. Other members present were the Misses Britten, Cowlard, Kitching, Maffett, Newman, Pennethorne, Witherow, and Mrs. Reid.

No business was discussed, but everyone present was urged to encourage old pupils to attend the meeting for young people to be held during the P.N.E.U. Conference.

It was also decided to appoint no Chairman for the next Meeting at Kew as last year's meeting seemed of quite an informal character.

STUDENTS' BUSINESS MEETING.

The Special Business Meeting was held at 16, Gordon Square on Saturday, September 24th. Thirty students were present and twenty nine sent their votes or opinions by correspondence. The four resolutions on the Agenda paper were passed with sundry additions or amendments.

A full account of the proceedings and some of the correspondence will be published in the January PIANTA. A letter was received and read by the Chairman from Miss Mason wishing the meeting well and most kindly inviting us all to Ambleside once more next Easter and proposing that we devote part of our time there to a "Refresher Course." She also gave us the good news that she had another book in course of preparation.

A telegram of heartfelt thanks and acceptance was sent in return. The full report will give all details but the magazine is going to press and therefore they cannot be included in this number.

NOTE.—This letter was *not* the subject of discussion at the meeting on Sept. 24th, but will come up again at the Conference next Easter. It is printed now, as a reminder to Students that suggestions for Revision of Rules, and any other matter affecting the Association, which will be dealt with at the Conference, is earnestly desired, and should be sent as a contribution to the next "Plant," for publication prior to the Conference.

Borough Mental Hospital,
Portsmouth, Hants.

To the CHAIRMAN of the Association,
Meeting of the A.O.S.A.,
Leisure Club,
16, Gordon Square, W.C.1.

Dear Madam,

I am sorry that I was not able to be present at the Annual Meeting on June 25th, when the Constitution was discussed, and,

as my locum tenens here does not end till October, shall probably not be able to attend the Business Meeting on Sept. 24th.

I therefore avail myself of the invitation to send you my opinion in writing, and would be obliged if you will kindly read this letter to the Meeting, so that the various proposals may, if they severally find a seconder, be discussed, amended, and voted on. In general I am in favour of the principles of the proposals in the circular, but suggest that they and other proposals be incorporated in a revised and amplified constitution, as our rules, now 12 years old, and drawn up for a much smaller organisation, are naturally somewhat inadequate now. According to my old PIANTAS the rules were first made in 1908, and revised last in 1909 and both these differ in several important respects from those published in October, 1920, which latter can only be valid if they are ratified by the Association. I take it, then, that the rules published in the Plant of June, 1909, are these actually in force and have copied them out opposite my proposed revision in the hope that this may, possibly, at any rate, help discussion. In making these proposals I have availed myself freely of the constitution of the P.N.E.U. published in the Annual Report.

PRESENT RULES.

Ambleside Old Students' Association . . . . . .

Any student may become a member on paying an annual subscription of 3s. 6d.

PROPOSED REVISION.

CONSTITUTION.

1.—The Association shall be called The Ambleside Old Students' Association.

2.—Any former student of the House of Education, Ambleside, may become a Life member on Payment of £5 or of 5 annual instalments of 25s., or may be an annual member on payment of 6s. a year.

3.—The Association shall hold an annual business meeting to receive the report and balance sheet of the previous year (which shall be published together with the constitution and rules in the previous issue of L'UMILE PIANTA), and for the revision of the rules and such other business as may arise.

4.—In addition to the Annual Meeting, a meeting of the Association of which at least 14 days notice must be given, shall be convened by the secretary at the request of the Committee (by majority) or of 30 members of the Association. The notice convening such meeting shall express the object or objects for which the meeting has been summoned, and no business other than that specified in the notice may be transacted at such meeting.

5.—No alteration may be made in the rules of the Association or of the S.E.C. except by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting at an Annual Meeting of the Association or one called for this purpose under Rule 4.

6.—Suggestions and expressions of opinion from absent members may be read to a meeting, but where a change of the rules is in question, only those present may vote.

(On this fundamental question I think it better to count the votes only of those able to hear arguments and amendments. The S.E.C. can, of course, on other matters, use the method of postal voting.)

7.—At a Business Meeting of the Association — to form a quorum.

8.—The Association shall hold a biennial conference either at Ambleside or at such other place as the S.E.C. may decide. It shall be understood that, when practicable, a meeting at Ambleside is preferred by the Association.

LOCAL BRANCHES.

1.—Any group of Ex-Students may, with the sanction of the S.E.C. form a branch of the Association.

2.—The Secretary of every local branch shall receive an agenda of every S.E.C. meeting and may attend and speak at such meeting, but not vote.

3.—Reports of branch meetings should be sent to L'UMILE PIANTA for publication.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

Present rules are printed in italics, and the Proposed Revision in roman.

The business of the Association shall be carried on by an Executive Committee which shall be subject to the following rules:—

1.—The Executive Committee of the Old Students' Association to consist of 7 members resident in London, Hon. Sec. and Editor, all to be elected by the Association. The S.E.C. and Officers to be elected every two years, retiring members to be eligible for re-election.

(a) The Committee to have power to add to its number for special business.

(b) The Committee to elect a new member should any vacancy occur between the elections. The Hon. Officers must alays be elected by the Association.

(c) The Committee to elect a Chairman from their number, and should the Chairman be absent from any meeting, a deputy to be appointed from the members present.

1.—The Business of the Association to be carried on by an Executive Committee, which shall be responsible for the organisation of the Students' meetings, Students' Club, Bi-ennial Conference, L'UMILE PIANTA, and other activities of the Association.